In the Chief Justices' Conference held from 13th to 15th September, 2002 in New Delhi, a resolution was passed on raising the age of retirement of High Court Judges. The resolution reads as follows:

Resolved that the age of retirement of the High Court Judges be increased. Resolved further, that the age of retirement of the High Court and the Supreme Court Judges be the same. A common cadre of the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the Judges of the Supreme Court be formed leaving allocation to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

This resolution has been examined by the Government. The increase in the age of retirement of Judges would be effected by amending Article 217 of the Constitution of India in accordance with the procedure laid down in its Article 368(2). Since this Article is covered under Chapter- V of Part-VI of the Constitution, amendment in the aforesaid Article will require ratification by the Legislatures of at-least one-half of the States, as per the provision of Article 368(2).

So far, no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

Appointment of women judges

3862. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are advocating the need to appoint more women judges to High Courts, also as Chief Justices, to ensure speedy delivery of justice to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present strength of women judges in each High Court;

(d) whether Government are also making efforts to render a women victim quick, speedy, cheaper and effective justice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under article 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and amongst Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Appointment of Chief Justices of the High Court are made on the basis of the seniority of the Judges in their parent High Court and their overall position in the all India seniority

(c) A Statement showing the number of women Judges in Supreme Court and High Court-wise, is enclosed. *(See* below).

(d) and (e) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases, including those involving women victims, which include setting up of fast track courts, family courts and amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr. PC) etc.

Statement

Women Judges in Supreme Court/High Courts

(As on 17.5.2006)

	Supreme Court of India	01
1	Allahabad High Court	04
2	Andhra Pradesh High Court	02
3	Bombay High Court	05
4	Calcutta High Court	01
5	Delhi High Court	04
6	Guwahati High Court	01
7	Gujarat High Court	03
8	Karnataka High Court	01
9	Kerala High Court	01
10	Madhya Pradesh High Court	04
11	Madras High Court	04
12	Patna High Court	03
13	Punjab & Haryana High Court	02
14	Rajasthan High Court	01
	TOTAL:	37